ABSTRACT

EXTENDABLE PROVISIONING MECHANISM

5   FOR A SERVICE GATEWAY

A service gateway connects at least one local client to an external network. The service
gateway is operable to hold at least one service module for providing a corresponding
service and to maintain a record identifying each service module held by the service

10 gateway with an associated pointer to that service module. The service gateway includes
a control mechanism providing a number of functions. The control mechanism is
operable in response to request for a service provided by a service module not present
at the service gateway, to send a message to an external source for resolving the absence
of a service module at the gateway in one or more iterations until a response from the

15 external service identifies information including a service module held by the gateway
that enables resolution of the absent service module(s). The service gateway is thus
arranged to provide an iterative, or recursive, process for repeatedly seeking a further
service until the necessary software and/or data is available at the service gateway to
satisfy the original service request.

20

Figure 5